local radio stations for the preservation of records. The draft Resolution might further help these efforts in an important field.

(H) Formation of a Committee to advise the State Governments for preservation of valuable files

(8) Resolution by Prof. M.N.Das

"Resolved that a Special Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission be deputed on behalf of the Commission to different state capitals to advise the state governments in matters of selection and preservation of valuable files in view of their ultimate transfer to State Archives".

Explanatory Note

It is the duty of the Commission to advise and assist different state governments in matters of selection of valuable official papers for transfer to State Archives. It is not always a case that different secretaries of various departments are aware of the archival value of the numerous files they set aside as closed. The purpose of the Special Committee should be to meet chief secretaries and other secretaries in conferences to bring home to them the value of various records in their broader historical perspective. As a follow up, trained Archivists of State Archives will help respective secretaries in processing the disposed files for subsequent transfer.

Standing Committee's views:

A Resolution was passed at the 43rd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission recommending that "The Commission is greatly perturbed over the reported large

scale destruction of old public records in several states, not withstanding the repeated recommendations of the Commission (vide Resolution No.II of 1925, Resolution No.VII of 1942, Resolution No. V of 1943, Resolution No. VI of 1951) and resolves that a Sub-Committee consisting of five Members of the Commission be constituted to investigate and report to the Standing Committee, within six months, on the following:

(a) the extent to which the above resolutions are being implemented;

(b) the period and the nature of records destroyed during the last two years;

(c) the qualifications and suitability of the staff engaged on appraisal of old records; and

(d) the steps which can be taken immediately to ensure the p reservation of records of Department value.

2. The Commission als recommends to the State Governments that no pre-1947 records be destroyed till the said Committee has submitted its report.

In parsuance of the Resolution a Committee was formed by the Government of India to study the problems on management of records of the State Government and Union Territories. Tne Committee has held five meetings so far and sent round a comprehensive questionnaire in order to elicit the information regarding tne conditions of records and the various ways in which the records are appraised. The Committee has also visited 13 States and 3 Union Territories to make on the spot enquiry about the management of records and has recorded the evidence of the eminent archivits, historians and administrators on the subject. The data thus collected are bieng processed for drafting the report. It

seems necessary to wait for the comprehensive report of this Committee on this whole problem before passing any new Resolution.

(I) Collection of information on historical documents pertaining to Indian from abroad

(9) Resolution by Prof. M.N.Das

"Resolved that official requests be made to different Governments of Europe and Asia to supply information regarding the availability of historical documents pertaining to India in their respective Archives."

Explanatory Note

In a number of countries of Europe and Asia historical records concerning India, particularly of the nature of political and commercial relations, are available in plenty. Information as regard to the location of such records, with some idea as regard to the character of those records, will prove a valuable source of information for historical purpose. Official requests for information on behalf of the Government of India to various countries may yield results in this regard.

Standing Committee's views:

A Resolution was passed at the 30th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Patna in December, 1968 recommending that the Government of India be requested to take early steps to obtain microfilm copies of documents in West Asia relating to India's trade with that region. At the 42nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Panaji (Goa) in January, 1973 the Commission recommended a review of the policy regarding acquisition of microfilm copies of records from abroad by various institutions in India.